

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. All Albanian men on reaching the age of 20 are required to serve in the armed services without regard to their state of health or the fact that they leave their families without any male members to support them. When they are called, they report to the recruiting offices of the various districts. After three days in the district center they are sent to different units in accordance with the plans of the Organization-Mobilization Division of the Ministry of Defense. The recruits remain about ten days with these temporary units where food and quarters are usually inadequate. During this period the commanders make assignments of the recruits according to the recommendations they have received. Faithful elements remain in the various instruction centers and the others are assigned to the smaller dependent units. The sons of the families which once had been rich, and those who have opposed the Communist Party are stationed in inaccessible places where they cannot meet their relatives. Their correspondence is censored and they are constantly watched by the Party organization of their units.
2. Before leaving for their permanent stations, uniforms are issued to the soldiers. New ones are given to those faithful to the Party, old ones are issued to the sons of Kulaks and merchants.
3. Soldiers are discharged without a clothing ration or transportation back to their homes. In the winter of 1950 a few soldiers from Elbasan were discharged in Leskovik. While walking home, on the Qare mountains near Kolonje, two were killed by wolves and another died of exposure.

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